



COVID-19 RESPONSE

USAID builds on its history of health programming to support Armenia's pandemic response

Armenia has made substantial progress in improving the physical health and social well-being of its citizens. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 strained the healthcare system and revealed additional vulnerabilities. Building on its long history of strategic partnerships with the Government, civil society, and other stakeholders to address weaknesses and gaps in the health system, USAID pivoted to supporting the immediate emergency health response to combat the virus, as well as longer term capacity building support to address the wide-ranging social and economic impacts and recovery from COVID-19.

ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS

USAID focused its initial COVID-19 support on the provision of essential clinical and laboratory equipment and supplies, including hygiene supplies and COVID-19 related information. USAID's partners provided technical assistance to the Government of Armenia and healthcare workers to strengthen Armenia's laboratory capacity, ensuring effective COVID-19 testing. Additional efforts included community engagement to reduce human-to-human transmission, providing essential food and hygiene supplies, psychological support, and training for healthcare workers.

ADAPTING TO THE PANDEMIC

Many of USAID's implementing partners successfully pivoted programming, using digital platforms and in-person events which showed unexpected positive effects leading to a broader geographic focus and expanded impact. These adaptations included helping rural beneficiaries and tourism enterprises gain access to COVID-19-related government stimulus packages, conducting

Accomplishments to Date

- 306,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine donated by the U.S.
- 12,000 PCR tests, PCR equipment, & test-related consumable goods provided
- 80 refrigerators & 285 freezers distributed to 250 primary health care facilities across Armenia
 - Each has a storage capacity for +8,000 vials of vaccine
 - 5 additional ultra-cold freezers delivered
- 7 medical professionals from France deployed to support the initial pandemic response
- Medical and diagnostic equipment & supplies delivered
 - Oxygen concentrators
 - Pulse oximeters
 - X-ray and ultrasound machines
 - Ventilators
 - Decontaminants and dispensers
- Psychosocial, food, & non-food support provided
- Training & technical assistance on COVID-19 management provided to managerial, clinical & laboratory personnel
- Crisis communications support provided to the Government including surge staffing, communications equipment, & materials for public distribution
- Nationwide COVID-19 related information disseminated, including evidence-based information to address barriers to vaccine uptake

public opinion research and assessments of the Government's response efforts to the pandemic, and helping decision-makers address gaps appropriately. Key to this was the strengthening of Armenia's social worker network to raise awareness of health and other resources for vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 in rural communities.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In addition to addressing immediate needs, USAID has developed programming to strengthen Armenia's capacity to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks and emergencies of potential public health concern in the future. A key component of this is the delivery and distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the strengthening of Armenia's cold chain storage capacity, and the ability to rapidly scale-up vaccinations. It also includes strategic communications and logistics support to administer vaccinations and data collection and analysis to enhance the healthcare system's capacity to prevent further spread of the disease. Through its Local Works initiative and ongoing rural development programming, USAID is also working with communities to increase their capacity and resilience to overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and prepare for future shocks.

COVID-19 ACTIVITIES

Support to Control COVID-19 and Other Infectious Disease Outbreaks initiatives support the Government of Armenia's efforts to design national multi-sectoral policies, strategies, and coordination mechanisms to address the COVID-19 and future public health emergencies; mobilize responses to contain outbreaks; and design and implement effective communication strategies and behavior change messages, including efforts to address vaccine hesitancy and uptake.

2020 - 2026 | American University of Armenia Fund (AUA) | \$3.2 million

Community Level Access to Social Services (CLASS) promotes the establishment of community-based social worker positions within local government and enables communities to identify, prevent, and address their social issues. During the pandemic, the social worker network supported by CLASS pivoted to providing information and health resources for vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 in rural communities.

2017 - 2024 | World Vision Inc | \$2.7 million

Local Works promotes locally led and community-centered development in consolidated communities through support for citizen-identified community priorities. The activity is working with local communities to collectively assess, identify and address COVID-19 related impacts.

Ongoing | Multiple Awards | \$1.2 million (est.)

Armenia-COVID19 Vaccine Roll Out helps accelerate widespread and equitable access to and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations in Armenia by supporting comprehensive country readiness to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

2021 - 2022 | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) | \$1.7 million

Preparedness and Response to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic delivers essential food and hygiene supplies to vulnerable people, provides psychological support, and disseminates COVID-19 related information through printed materials, social media, and phone.

2020 - 2022 | International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | \$0.4 million

Preparedness and Response to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic promoted social and behavioral change through accurate risk-communications and community engagement to increase

COVID-19 vaccine acceptance by priority populations.

2020 - 2022 | International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | \$0.5 million

Armenia Support Initiative (ASI) partnered with the Armenian government to advance institutional reforms at the national level, and with leaders at local levels to maintain support for the democratic transition by mobilizing citizens in support of social projects. During the pandemic, ASI fielded the first team of international medical doctors to Yerevan to share best practices and support Armenia's COVID-19 response. ASI also provided medical equipment, such as heart rate monitors and x-ray machines, for Armenian hospitals to enable the Government to meet urgent medical and public health needs and supported the Ministry of Health's crisis communications and messaging during the state of emergency.

2019 - 2022 | Management Systems International (MSI) | \$8.2 million

Preventing and Responding to the COVID-19 in At-Risk Countries worked to reduce human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 and improved the quality and effectiveness of COVID-19 diagnosis. The activity mitigated the impact of the outbreak through risk communication and community engagement, provided critical supplies, improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and data collection and analysis efforts.

2020 - 2021 | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) | \$1.6 million

Preparedness and Response to Combat the Global Novel Coronavirus Outbreak provided essential equipment, supplies, training, and technical assistance to strengthen Armenia's laboratory capacity to manage large-scale testing for COVID-19. The activity also supported efforts to improve clinical care of those infected with COVID-19, including the most severe cases.

2020 | World Health Organization (WHO) | \$0.7 million

Rural Economic Development-New Economic Opportunities (RED-NEO) promotes inclusive, sustainable economic security and growth by connecting producers and buyers, establishing networks to support economic development, and improving Small Medium Enterprises and farms to develop and grow. At the start of the pandemic, RED-NEO provided business training to agricultural cooperatives; once they completed the training, cooperatives were eligible to apply for grants provided through the Government's COVID-19 assistance funds.

2019- 2024 | Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development Foundation | \$5.1 million

"My Armenia" Cultural Tourism Program bolstered the rural private sector to develop and offer a wider range of cultural tourism products, helping local economies benefit from this rapidly growing sector while preserving Armenia's unique cultural heritage in Vayots Dzor, Syunik, Lori, Tavush, and Shirak marzes. During the pandemic, the activity assisted tourism enterprises in pivoting their products, marketing, and promotional materials to target a domestic market.

2015- 2021 | Smithsonian Institute | \$9.2 million